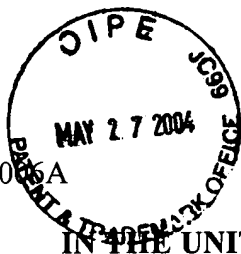


AXIAMD.006A

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Cragg et al.  
Appl. No. : 09/782,534  
Filed : February 13, 2001  
For : APPARATUS FOR  
PERFORMING A DISCECTOMY  
THROUGH A TRANS-SACRAL  
AXIAL BORE WITHIN THE  
VERTEBRAE OF THE SPINE  
Examiner : Kathryn Odland  
Group Art Unit : 3743

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JUN 03 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks regarding the above captioned application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.

05/28/2004 HMEKONEN 00000079 09782534

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